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Paper No. 13

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**APR 01 2005**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Patent No. 5,731,655	:	
Issue Date: March 24, 1998	:	
Application No. 08/614,212	:	ON PETITION
Filed: March 12, 1996	:	
Attorney Docket No. N/A	:	

This is a decision on the papers, originally filed February 20, 2004, which have been construed as a petition under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of a maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The patent issued March 24, 1998. The grace period for paying the first maintenance fee expired at midnight on March 24, 2002. Therefore, since this petition was filed within twenty-four months after the six-month grace period provided in 37 CFR 1.362(e), this petition was timely filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.378(c).

Accordingly, the maintenance fee in this case is hereby accepted and the above-identified patent is hereby reinstated as of the mail date of this decision.

This file is being forwarded to Files Repository.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3228.

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